

PORTABLE COMMUNICATION TERMINAL
WITH IMAGE TRANSMISSION FUNCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a portable communication terminal with an image transmission function of transmitting an image such as a portable telephone set or a portable digital assistant (PDA).

10 Description of the Related Art

A portable telephone terminal utilizes a radio communication circuit. Therefore, the portable telephone terminal is superior in portability and can communicate even during movement. However, since the circuit quality varies depending upon the electric field situation, the portable telephone terminal displays a reception electric field level thereof to inform the carrying person of the situation of the electric field at the place of use. Further, when the circuit quality deteriorates during communication, the portable telephone terminal issues a communication quality alarm to notify the user that interruption of the communication may possibly occur.

However, with the conventional portable telephone terminal, information of the reception electric field intensity of it is not conveyed to the opposite party of communication. Therefore, the portable telephone terminal is disadvantageous

in that, even if it is moving in a direction in which the reception electric field level thereof drops, it cannot urge this on an attention of the opposite party of communication. The portable telephone terminal is disadvantageous also in that, when a 5 communication quality alarm is generated therein, this is not conveyed definitely to the opposite party of communication because the circuit quality is already in a deteriorated state. Particularly with a portable telephone terminal with a visual telephone function which communicates not only voice but also 10 an image with the opposite party, interruption of an image or sudden deterioration of the picture quality provides a loss in information communication and a disagreeable feeling to the user much greater than where only communication of voice is involved.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a portable communication terminal capable of transmitting an image such as a portable communication terminal with a visual 20 telephone function which can convey a reception electric field intensity state of and generation of a communication quality alarm in the portable communication terminal itself in the form of an image to the opposite party of communication.

In order to attain the object described above, according 25 to the present invention, there is provided a portable communication terminal with an image transmission function for

transmitting an image, comprising reception electric field intensity detection means for detecting a reception electric field intensity of the portable communication terminal, and reception electric field intensity image transmission means 5 for transmitting a reception electric field intensity image representative of the detected reception electric field intensity to the opposite party of communication.

Where the portable communication terminal further comprises an image pickup section for picking up an image, 10 preferably the reception electric field intensity image transmission means transmits the reception electric field intensity image together with an image picked up by the image pickup section.

Irrespective of whether or not the portable communication terminal comprises the image pickup section, preferably it further comprises reception electric field intensity transmission setting means for setting whether or not the reception electric field intensity image should be transmitted, communication quality alarm image transmission means for 20 transmitting a communication quality alarm image to the opposite party of communication when a communication quality alarm is generated in the portable communication terminal, or communication quality alarm transmission setting means for setting whether or not a communication quality alarm image should 25 be transmitted.

The image pickup section may be removably and externally